



News Release

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IDWR Approves Application
For Tamarack (Westrock) Project Water Rights

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State water managers have approved an application for new ground water rights involved with the Tamarack (formerly known as WestRock) four-season resort project in Valley County, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

The approval order, signed Friday (Dec. 20) by IDWR Director Karl J. Dreher, grants the project the right to use a total of 406.6 million gallons of water per year from any of 11 different wells.

(Editor's Note: The water right approves the pumping of up to 8.6 cubic feet per second of water – 5.56 million gallons per day - but sets a maximum annual use of 1,248 acre feet – 406.6 million gallons - per year. Thus the total amount of water use allowed under the water right is just 20 percent of what could otherwise be diverted under the water right. This approach provides Tamarack the capability for heavy water use during peak periods such as snowmaking but conserves the resource by restricting total use to only the water necessary to meet the resort's total annual needs.)

Tamarack originally applied for the water right in March 2001 and the Citizens for Valley County (CVC) protested the application. A contested case water right hearing was held in Boise over three days in June 2002. On September 30, 2002 the hearing officer issued an order recommending approval of the application. CVC then filed a request asking the IDWR Director to review the preliminary order. The December 20 ruling by Dreher adopts the recommended order with some minor modifications.

Unless a party to the case files a request for reconsideration, Director Dreher's order of December 20 will become final January 4. Parties to the case also have the right to appeal the decision to District Court.

A copy of Director Dreher's final order is available in the news and events section of the IDWR Internet website. The address is: www.idwr.state.id.us.